

REMARKS

In the Office Action, restriction was made among six patentably distinct inventions: **Group I** drawn to slurry reuse apparatus/crusher (Claims 1-21); **Group II** drawn to slurry concentrating apparatus (Claims 22-23); **Group III** drawn to slurry specific gravity adjustment apparatus (claim 24); **Group IV** drawn to slurry pH adjustment apparatus (Claim 25); **Group V** drawn to membrane regeneration apparatus (Claims 26-28); and **Group VI** drawn to method of reuse of a slurry (claims 29-42).

Applicants hereby provisionally elect **Group I, that is, claims 1-21**, for examination on the merits in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that claim 1 was generic to a number of species of the invention as disclosed in the specification. It was therefore required that if Group I above is elected, then applicant must select one of the following single disclosed species: (1) mill; or (2) ultrasonic oscillator; or (3) pressurizing circulation unit for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted in the event the generic claim was not found to be allowable. It was further required that applicants state the claims which read on the elected species.

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Regarding the elected species, claims 2 and 20 have been amended to recite that the claimed crusher apparatus includes all three of the (1) mill; and (2) ultrasonic oscillator; and (3) pressurizing circulation unit. Applicant thereby traverses the election requirement, and in support thereof directs the Examiner to page 7, lines 29-31 of the subject application wherein a mill, an ultrasonic oscillator, and a pressurizing circulation unit are present and selectively used. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn.

In the event the requirement is adhered to, Applicant provisionally elects the species of the mill and states that claims 1-21 read on this species.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit

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Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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